

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel.

Today, Israel is home to over 8 million people—all with unique histories that stretch from around the world. The nation has become fertile ground for business, innovation, and entrepreneurship, with companies leading the way in cutting edge technologies. Israel has also worked to strengthen their global outreach and assistance through the work of organizations such as MASHAV—sharing expert insight and technical assistance with countries in the developing world, and helping to lift people out of poverty.

Founded as a Jewish state in 1948 following the aftermath of the horrific genocide that was the Holocaust, Israel's existence is a tribute to perseverance. From the beginning, many of Israel's neighbors rejected their right to exist—some even taking up arms and attacking the young nation. I have been, and will continue to be, an ardent supporter of Israel, and have advocated for robust U.S. engagement to help ensure their safety and encourage peace in the region.

I am proud to rise in support of Israel on this exciting anniversary, and to celebrate the deep ties that have been forged between it and the United States—including in the Ninth District of Washington state. I look forward to the future.

JUDGE PAUL W. DANAHY, JR.'S
90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2018

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Paul W. Danahy, Jr.'s 90th birthday, a member of my hometown of Tampa and the state of Florida's Greatest Generation. He may wish to be remembered as much for working his way through college at the legendary Valencia Gardens restaurant as the only Anglo member of the Spanish Waiters than for being one of the longest-serving members on Florida's Second District Court of Appeals. Wherever Judge Danahy served he earned a reputation for working tirelessly and for gaining the respect of all with whom he worked.

Born in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, Judge Danahy was drawn to Tampa to play basketball at the University of Tampa. In Tampa he found both a new hometown and the love of his life, Georgia Reed. Judge Danahy enlisted

in the army during the Korean War and has a very unique military record including three honorable discharges from two branches of the military: the Marine Reserves, the U.S. Army Infantry, and finally from service in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps, a precursor to the CIA. Upon return from military service he found his true calling and earned his law degree from the University of Florida in 1957.

Judge Danahy became an influential member of the Florida House of Representatives serving from 1966 to 1974. True to form, Judge Danahy played a significant role as part of what many believe to be Tampa's greatest state legislative delegations during the late 60s and early 70s. There, amongst other progressive policies, he drafted and championed the very first enactment of our state's Ethics Law, which continues in force to this day, and is now firmly enshrined within Florida's Constitution. The Florida we know and love today would not be possible without the contributions of Judge Danahy and his partners in Florida's Greatest Generation.

After leaving the legislature Judge Danahy's service was only beginning. He was appointed to the Second District Court of Appeals in 1977 and sat on the bench a record shattering thirty-three years, serving as Chief Judge from 1986 to 1988. In his 30th year at the court, Judge Danahy received a fitting recognition—the largest conference room at the Tampa branch of the 2nd DCA was named the Judge Paul W. Danahy, Jr., Conference Room. This recognition not only honored his record setting time on the bench but also his legislative prowess—he was largely responsible for obtaining legislative funding to bring the branch to Tampa.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor and send many wishes to a great Tampanian, Judge Paul W. Danahy, Jr., on his 90th birthday. His legacy continues as the patriarch of an ever-growing family to which he imparts his wisdom, and through whom his lessons and beliefs will surely echo in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING WOMAN OF LIGHT
HONOREE INA THOMPSON

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2018

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Ina Thompson, who is the ninth woman to be honored in the Women of Light program sponsored by the DeFuniak Springs Woman's Club. Women of Light honors women past and present who have made significant contributions to our community or who came from this area and made contributions elsewhere.

Ina Simmons was born October 3, 1902 in Freeport, Florida. Her parents were Dr. Daniel Simmons and her mother Mary Ansley Sim-

mons, an early education teacher. She had five siblings; Minnie Ruth, Sarah Gertrude, Mary Edith, Daniel Curtis and Martha Louise.

Her family moved to DeFuniak Springs in 1909 where her father opened a private practice in addition to caring for lumber and turpentine workers as a company doctor. Ina attended schools in Walton County and graduated from Walton High School in 1920. She loved sports and was on the girls' basketball team. Her favorite subject was history.

She attended Florida State College for Women and was a forward on the basketball team. She also played tennis and held an elected office each of the four years she attended the school. Ina graduated in 1924 with majors in history and English. She returned in 1948 and received a Masters Degree in Education at what was by then Florida State University.

After graduation Miss Simmons returned to DeFuniak Springs and taught English and history at Walton High School. In 1928, Miss Simmons married Warner Thompson who had graduated from Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. The couple moved to Wilmore where Warner finished his last two years at Asbury Seminary. Their son, Warner Paul Thompson Jr. was born in 1929. Rev. Warner graduated from seminary in 1930 and became a Methodist minister.

The family moved to Gamber, Maryland where Rev. Thompson pastored a church. Two years later he was a minister for a church in Baltimore. Daughter Gretchen Ann was born there in 1936. Rev. Thompson suffered from asthma in an age where there were not the medicines we now have to treat it. There were times when he was too ill to give the sermon on a Sunday. On those days the church allowed Mrs. Thompson to fill the pulpit and deliver the sermon.

In 1941, after the passing of Rev. Thompson, the young widow and her two children returned to DeFuniak Springs and her family home.

Mrs. Thompson worked as a visitor for the Welfare Board. In 1943 she was made a Welfare Board supervisor for Walton and Holmes Counties.

In 1945 the Florida legislature provided funds to create in each county a new position, general supervisor of schools. This position was appointed by the county superintendent of schools. Mrs. Thompson was the first general supervisor of schools in Walton County. She was in charge of curriculum development for elementary through high schools. She held this position for ten years. In 1955, newly elected Florida governor LeRoy Collins wanted a woman to be a member of his "little cabinet" and be the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles. His friend, Tom Bailey, was the state superintendent of schools and Mr. Collins asked if he could recommend someone. Mr. Bailey named Ina Thompson and she agreed to take the position. She was in charge of distributing auto license plates and collecting \$27,000,000 in annual taxes.

As president of the fourteen state South Eastern Region of Motor Vehicle Administrators, she would travel and host conventions to

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